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December 13, 1958

To: The Secretary
From: *✓* Livingston T. Merchant *LTM (12/13/58)*
Subject: Your meeting with Spaak - 4 p.m., December 13.

I expect Spaak will raise with you three major subjects.
(1) Political consultation in NATO with reference to the de Gaulle proposal. (2) Berlin and the Soviet note. (3) The current status of the NATO defense effort (MC-70).

I am sure you need no briefing paper on political consultation.

On Berlin and the Soviet note, you may find Spaak will express the opinion that realistically we will probably have to deal with the GDR. He is also opposed to the issuance of a substantive communique by the four powers after they meet on Sunday, preferring to have any substantive statement on the Berlin situation contained in the NATO communique. I think that some communique will be necessary after the Sunday meetings, but I recommend that it not be substantive and that the statement of whatever position with respect to Berlin as may be agreed should be reserved for the NATO communique at the end of the Ministerial meeting. In general, with your discussion with Spaak on the subject of Berlin, I would emphasize the importance we attach to the views of our NATO allies as they will be expressed, and avoid any implication that we or the other three powers most directly concerned have reached any fixed conclusion, apart from a determination to maintain our rights vis-a-vis the Soviets, and to refuse to abandon the Berliners.

On NATO defense, Spaak may suggest his thought of following up the annual review by visits to the NATO capitals in early January and February. I think this is a useful suggestion and he should be encouraged to do so. Incidentally, it would head off rather more elaborate proposals which the Dutch will probably make in Council for wise men type of approach. You may also want to leave the thought in Spaak's mind that an increased effort on the part of our European partners is required, and that the U.S. is not of a mind to

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